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INDIVIDUALISM.

It would be idle to deny that socialism is making progress in this country. Not only avowed socialists, but people who would repudiate such a designation, advocate measures and policies which are essentially socialistic in their nature. The public mind is in confusion because of the crop of refurbished doctrines, which, while professing to be new, are really old socialistic ideas in a new form. People who 20 years ago would have scouted the idea of furthering socialism are today outspoken in favor of schemes which are thus labeled. This situation is founded upon ignorance. People—most of them—do not know what socialism is. They do not recognize it. This is the danger of the situation. Socialism has changed its spots. Where it was once blatant, aggressive and radical it is now soft-spoken, sophisticated and altruistic. Its leaders are no longer hairy, beery persons, who were suspected of harboring a grudge against existing society largely because of its fondness for bathtubs. They are, on the contrary, men prominent in politics in the learned professions, in the churches.

Socialism is talked by men like Mr. Bryan, Mr. Darrow and Dr. Hillis, and people of certain mentality regard it as a new dispensation instead of a political, social and economic heresy as old as organized society. A majority of these people do not even realize that Mr. Bryan and his collaborators are talking socialism. Most of them probably have a vague idea that socialism has something to do with bombs and red flags and fighting the police. They do not associate it with the philanthropic, benevolent utterances of gentlemen like those named. They do not understand that a proposition for municipal ownership of street railways, for instance, is the logical forerunner of government ownership of all property—a condition which inevitably involves confiscation and reconsecration of all individual belongings. Socialism, that is to say, no longer undertakes to enlighten people as to the ultimate result of its theories. On the contrary, it hides its purposes and seeks to make people socialists without their knowing it. Men who would instantly balk at the doctrine of confiscation are soothed and deluded with soft talk about government supervision of certain private enterprises and socialism undertakes to educate them gradually up to the point where they may safely be introduced to the culminating purpose of the propaganda, which is the abolition of private property and the domination of the state in all things.

Socialism, in short, has discovered that its tenets are not to be swallowed raw; they must be sweetened and diluted and doctored until the popular palate has become accustomed to them, after which it is hoped to administer them in the original bolus without any disguise. In other words, the socialistic campaign is now a formidable one, because it is inspired by shrewdness and knowledge of human nature. Socialism, therefore, is no contemptible antagonism. It is not to be despised as it was in the days when it had its habits in grimy beer halls and its spokesmen in orators who were chiefly notable for their aversion to clean collars and hair-cuts. It is dangerous because it has become superficially respectable and because its leading advocates are shrewd enough to refrain from avowing its ultimate purpose before their proselytes are ready for it. It is dangerous because it is being preached by men who are able and intelligent to the great extent in our citizenship which is always ready to take up with any new political theory. The fight against socialism must be conducted upon educational lines. People will have to be shown what it really means. It will make small headway when the American people understand that the ultimate object of the insidious propaganda is the abolition of the individual factor in society and the reduction of mankind to one dead level. Individualism is Americanism, and this continent presents no field for the propagation of

a plant which flourishes best in the impoverished soil of the European monarchies.

BEAUTIFUL HOMES.

One of the most enterprising citizens of Everett has discovered the secret of increasing wealth in the home, says the P.-I. One year ago he invested \$8.50 in tearing down an old front fence, clearing away the rubbish and planting grass where weeds had previously covered the lawn. A few days ago he was offered a cash increase of \$165 over the value of his place before the work had been performed. He therefore estimates that the small outlay of money has advanced the valuation 25 fold, which must be added to the sale price of his property.

There is magic in human endeavor when labor is correctly applied. The home is of such importance in private and public life that it should never be neglected in the march toward the fortress of riches. A lawn without grass and flowers presents a scene of desolation. The stranger gazes upon the spot and concludes that it is owned by a shiftless man. There is nothing enticing to the children where the bloom of natural beauty has faded. Nature does all she can for every home in Washington. Her smiles are given without regard to surroundings.

A little energy will convert a poor yard into a beautiful lawn. That adds wealth to the individual owner and increases the value of all the adjoining properties. A street bordered on either side by well-kept homes is always regarded with pride by the residents of a town, or city, and it is visited and admired by tourists. It is like an oasis in the commercial desert where one is surrounded by business houses and factories that prevent the planting of flowers and grasses. Its plants bring rest to the tired and comfort to the low-spirited people.

The many associations now forming in different sections for promulgating the spirit of public improvement indicate a new era in the seeking for wealth. Money does not constitute all there is in this world so full of riches. Contentment and the satisfaction of knowing that nothing has been neglected in the work of building up the home and community assist in making people happy. Every effort in the line of beautifying the urban sections of the state should be encouraged. The women who are giving their attention to civic improvements are entitled to the greatest commendation. They realize that there is wealth in caring for the homes.

WHAT RULES THE WORLD.

A prominent Kalamazoo (Mich.) club woman, addressing a Chicago audience on "Domestic Science in the Home," last week, declared the "hand that wields the cooking spoon rules the world—far more than the hand that rocks the cradle." Men of parts, she went on, owe their greatness as much to their health as anything, and health is due primarily to a good stomach. "A modern knowledge of breadmaking on the part of their cooks might have made optimists of Carlyle and Voltaire," the speaker continued, "for a sound mind is impossible in an unsound body." While the lady may not be capable of criticizing either of the authors mentioned, there is something in her assertion of the importance of well-cooked food and its bearing upon the daily deeds of men. Latterday cookery grows more and more an art. Knowledge of chemistry is being worked into it. Science is deciding what food is proper and what is not; nice discriminations are being made.

Moreover, household economy is involved. The cook who "knows her business" cuts down the bills 50 per cent. She learns not to prepare too much, thus obviating waste. She has cunning ways to make use of anything left over. Best of all, she keeps her household, to a certain extent, healthful and therefore cheerful and in a measure happy.—Butte I. M.

PREPARE IN PEACE.

In a speech to the graduates of the United States naval medical college at Washington, on Saturday, President Roosevelt called attention with considerable feeling, to one of the standing and apparently inevitable deficiencies of congress. He pointed out the necessity which always exists of being prepared for war or other eventualities, with particular reference to the necessity of being prepared on the side of the medical and surgical service. In the present condition of affairs, with an inadequate equipment and a limited personnel in the medical department of both services, should a war suddenly be thrust upon us, there would be precisely the same breakdown as was witnessed at the outbreak of the war with Spain. There would be imperfect sanitation, with resulting fevers and loss of life, in the mobilizing camps for the volunteers; there would be an insufficient and overworked medical corps; and there would be the same deficiency in supplies and equipment; and, following all, there would be the same hysterical outcry against the administration in office at the time, for failure to be prepared when congress has persistently refused to make appropriations to keep the country in readiness for such contingencies. Said the president: "Let them re-

member not to blame the people in power when the breakdown occurs, but blame themselves, the people of the United States, because they have not had the forthright to take the steps in advance which will prevent the breakdown when it occurs."

After all, as the president says, it is the people, not congress, on whom this responsibility rests. When a representative in congress denounces the administration for militarism and extravagance, when estimates are sent in for the necessary improvements in the army and navy, he does so because he knows that his constituents will applaud and will look up to him as one of the watchdogs of the treasury. The same congressman knows, further, that no responsibility will be thrown emergency and that the same constituent.

Contractor Goodin wants 50 gamblers to work on the streets. Not on your tin type. There would be no rake off and Goodin would be passing the buck. The Baltimore American thinks lynching is a fad. A necktie fad. The new senator from Missouri may find comfort in the thought that he is expected to fill Senator Cockrell's shoes instead of his hat. At the same time it is quite probable that the negro appointed to be revenue collector in New York is as competent for the position as negroes named to fill important positions in the southern states.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Epitome of Anecdotes and Incidents
With Comments By a Layman.

Pity the sorrows of the poor gambler. He has been thrown out of employment by a cruel hard-hearted sheriff. Poor things how they must suffer.

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They have discovered a bug in Michigan whose bite causes insanity. That's nothing—they have bug-juice in Seaside which produces the same effect.

Mrs. Hussie—Six of that dozen of eggs were rotten. Dealer—Sorry, very sorry—Mrs. Hussie, I hope you didn't break the shells? Mrs. Hussie—Why, of course I did. How could I tell whether they were good or bad? Dealer—If you hadn't broken the shells, we could have taken the eggs back. We have other customers, you know. But now they are no use to us.

Tommy Twaddles—Mamma, why is it they ain't no parties an' dances an' things durin' Lent? 'Mamma Twaddles—Because our winter clothes are all worn out and it isn't warm enough for our spring clothes yet."

There is just one good thing about those Russian names. They are not the sort to encourage budding poets to take liberties.

A New York woman claims that her alimony of \$3 a week is not sufficient to keep her in violets. Why doesn't she try wienersursts?

One distillery company in Kentucky turns out every seven days 1,200 barrels of sweet mash whisky, says the Lincoln, Nev., Journal. The output for a year would be \$2,400 barrels. The cost of all this to the manufacturers may be fairly estimated at \$374,000, and they receive from the wholesaler a profit of from \$1 to \$2 per barrel.

The government comes in for a nice little rakeoff, but the fellow who has to pay it all, including transportation charges, government and local license fees, salary of barkeep and rent of buildings, is the man before the bar, and for these 62,400 barrels of booze he lets go of \$24,761,618, and then goes home and beats his wife because supper isn't ready.

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